



Invasive Plant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021
Time: 7:00 PM - Location: REMOTE

Committee Attendees: Annette Cate, Emily Boeing, Deb Fountain
Guests/Public: Tom Mirabile, Quentin Cutler
Meeting convened at 7:05 PM

1. Reviewed/approved Meeting Minutes for 9/22/21 - unanimous approval
2. Action Item review - no open items to address at this time
3. Review and discussion with T. Mirabile on Keyes Parker Invasive Plant Report

Tom provided the Committee with an overview of the process he used to complete the project. Field work consisted of about three weeks with multiple site visits, the first for familiarization with the area with Pat and Deb, along with brief training on plant identification, and then several independent visits for mapping. He worked with two different Apps, EddMaps, for the mapping and data collection, and Picture This to confirm plant identifications. The focus was on about 2 acres of the property, along the perimeter and within the two meadows near the trailhead. He attended three Committee-provided training events, a meeting with the Groton Invasive Species Sub-Committee on mapping, and requested a meeting with an EddMaps App advisor to work through mapping issues. Due to a dearth of verifiers of data for the EddMaps App, his data was not available for release, and he had to determine how to create his own maps and data tables using ArcGis, Excel and Google earth. With the data collected, he determined density percentages as well as plants that should be considered major focus areas, researched various approaches to management of specific invasives, and then developed objectives and recommendations for the management plan.

The Committee reviewed the final draft report page by page, asked questions for clarity and made several suggestions, most of which were minor editorial questions. Tom will make the changes and submit the final report to the Committee. Committee members all spoke to the professionalism and thoroughness of the project and report, and expressed their gratitude to Tom for providing us with a valuable document.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the report as amended at the meeting, and to request that the second and final payment be released to Tom for payment.

Deb will prepare a final report to submit to the Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council to finalize actions on the grant funds. This will be provided to members in advance of next week's meeting, and will also be coordinated through the Town Administrator.

4. Matters That May be Raised That Were Not Reasonably Anticipated
 - Emily Boeing agreed to temporarily act as the Conservation Commission's representative on the Committee in Pat Rice's absence. This will expire when Pat returns.
 - Deb sent an email to the Select Board asking when they expect the Committee to submit our Strategic Plan; will it coincide with our reappointment at the end of December 2021, or will the SB give us until March 2022, which will be one year from the date that the Committee was appointed? Pending response.
 - Tom reminded everyone to attend Open Farm Days this coming weekend
5. Set Next Meeting Date - October 6th at 7 PM. After that meeting, the Committee will hold meetings twice a month vs weekly.
6. With no further actions, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Action Items:

Deb - prepare the final report for the Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council Grant and distribute to the Committee and the Town Administrator for final approval at next meeting

Ongoing Action Items

- ***Committee Charge Actions Items toward Goals and Strategies: By the end of the first year of existence, the Committee shall:***
 1. Provide the Select Board with a strategic plan to
 - assess and document invasive plant issues on public land,
 - develop detection and reporting process for private land owners,
 - create a list of invasive plants in town to compare with the state list (complete)
 - recommend appropriate remediation approaches (complete)
 - identify associated resource issues and sources for remediation actions,
 2. Educate homeowners, businesses, and the agricultural community on the importance of using native plantings. (In process)
 - establish a web presence with educational material concerning invasive plants and native plantings for residents. (In process)
 - Work with local landscapers / garden centers to promote native plantings (plan for winter)